

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04727 262213Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR, CI

SUBJ: ARGENTINE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION RETURNS FROM CHILE

REF: BA 4504

1. SUMMARY: GROUP OF ARGENTINE CONGRESSMEN, ALL REPRESENTING OPPOSITION PARTIES, HAVE RETURNED FROM CHILE AND GIVEN PRESS INTERVIEW IN WHICH GOC ACCUSED OF ACTS OF REPRESSION AND SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. GROUP REJECTS EARLIER REPORT BY ARGENTINE JURIST SEBASTIAN SOLER AS INVALID. END SUMMARY.

2. SOLER REPORT ON CHILE WAS PICKED UP BY LA NACION JUN 24. ESSENTIALLY IT WAS SIMPLY A REWRITE OF THE UPI STORY (SEE REF). THIS IS NOT BY CHANGE SINCE UP IS IN SAME BUILDING WITH LA NACION.

3. SEVEN ARGENTINE CONGRESSMEN (TWO SENATORS AND FIVE DEPUTIES) RETURNED TO BUENOS AIRES JUN 25 AFTER TRIP OF SEVERAL DAYS "INVESTIGATION CONDITIONS IN CHILE". IN PRESS INTERVIEW APPEARING THIS MORNING (JUN 26) SPOKESMEN FOR GROUP SHARPLY DISPUTE SOLAR REPORT, WHICH THEY DESCRIBE AS "INCOMPREHENSIBLE VIEW IN NO WAY RELATED TO REALITIES OF SITUATION IN CHILE".

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04727 262213Z

WHILE PROFESSING RESPECT FOR SOLAR AS A JURIST, THEY POINT TO

HIS PAST ASSOCIATION WITH ARAMBURU AND ONGANIA GOVERNMENTS TO SUGGEST HIS VIEWS ARE CLEARLY SUSPECT.

4. GROUP COMPLAINS THAT WHILE IN CHILE THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO VISIT ARGENTINES BEING HELD PRISONER FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND THAT THEY WERE POINTEDLY REFUSED INTERVIEWS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IN FACT THEY CLAIM THEY WERE TOTALLY IGNORED BY GOC.

5. THRUST OF GROUPS COMMENTS REPORTED IN PRESS SO FAR IS:
A. THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD POLITICAL REPRESSION IN CHILE;
B. THAT CIVILIAN POLITICIANS WHO ENCOURAGED MILITARY TO OVERTHROW ALLENDE MAY NOW BE SORRY, IN VIEW OF ACT MILITARY REFUSES TO GIVE UP POWER; AND C. THAT ECONOMIC SITUATION IS GRAVE AND GETTING WORSE, PLACING INTOLERABLE BURDEN ON AVERAGE WORKER.

6. GROUP SPOKESMAN INSISTED THAT THEY FULLY RESPECTED PRINCIPLE OF NON INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THEY MAINTAINED THAT THEY INTEREST ACTIVATED BY FACT ARGENTINE CITIZENS WERE BEING HELD AND BY FACT THAT MATTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WERE CONCERN TO ALL IRRESPECTIVE OF NATIONAL BOUNDARIES. THEY DID NOT GO ON TO EXPLAIN HOW THESE CONSIDERATIONS GAVE THEM LICENSE TO COMMENT ON CHILEAN ECONOMIC SITUATION.

7. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT CONGRESSMEN ARE NOT PERONISTS. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, WHO IS MEMBER CENTRIST PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, ALL ARE LEFT OF CENTER MEMBERS OF UCR OR ALIANZA POPULAR. NONETHELESS, WHILE UNOFFICIAL, THEIR VIEWS WILL COUNT FOR MORE THAN SOLERS.
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